

Questions & Responses from Slido at the BSCB Annual Conference 2019 – sorted by guest speaker:

Stephen Barry & Dr Anna Fussell – Be Safe Service

- **Why is sibling sexual abuse increasing? Is it due to an increase in prevalence of pornographic material available online?**

The speakers responded to this question live during the conference – there is a challenge in identifying whether actual abuse is increasing or whether reporting of abuse is increasing, however the speaker expressed a view that there might be some links with increases in viewing some types of pornography/indecent images, especially when combined with issues around peer/community attitudes.

- **Could you advise on how to respond/support parents where there has been a strong pattern of intergenerational sexual abuse impacting on parenting capacity?**

We may like to create opportunities for the parents to reflect on their experiences and how this impacts on current situation, and on their capacity to respond to the child. We might also encourage the parents to seek support for their personal traumas, to increase their capacity to support their child through the Be Safe programme, for example through The Greenhouse, The Bridge or SARSAS though we recognise resources are limited.

- **Many families now have more complex sibling relationships - e.g. half siblings and step-siblings, joint custody etc. How is this reflected in this model?**

The speakers responded to this question live during the conference – their case study reflected that the model can respond to the many and varied constitutions of “family” and would not only apply to fully biological sibling relationships.

- **Be Safe intervention aims to prevent future problematic/harmful sexual behaviour. Are you able to track individuals you have worked with as they become adults?**

In the past Be Safe has sought information from referrers including YOT, Social Care and Police, but due to the limitations of this approach and concerns around ongoing consent, we have not maintained this. This information suggests overall positive outcomes and is consistent with international data on the effectiveness of intervention programmes.

- **Are there any services / counselling available to support parents going through this?**
Please contact The Green House and Be Safe about this.

- **What happens to young people that disclose intra-familial sexual abuse but the perpetrator is not found guilty?**

This is unfortunately not uncommon as the conviction rate is very low. If living with the person who is harmed, you would hope that social care are involved in risk assessing the safety of this and safeguards are put in place. This would not be a bar to the young person receiving support.

- **Have there been studies to see the long term effects for the child who has been harmed to have the child who has harmed return to the family environment?**
Not that we are aware of. Good idea!
- **What is the organisation that gives support / advice to schools about managing sexual behaviour?**
Be Safe can provide advice for schools – and are in discussions with the new Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership regarding developing practice guidance for Bristol schools.
- **Do Be Safe provide support for students who are over the age of 18 but have a history of sexual abuse? If not which other services provide this support?**
On a case by case basis Be Safe might be involved if the person began with their service before they turned 18 or if they have disabilities and are being supported within the 0-25 framework. However, Be Safe would not normally work with adults – if they are adults who are worried they might harm others then we would suggest they contact Lucy Faithfull Foundation.
- **Which agency runs the specialist residential provisions (be safe? NHS? Camhs?). Where are these located?**
There is a range of independent providers which can be accessed through your commissioning team.
- **Acknowledging this is about abuse in the family setting do be safe have protocols for safety planning education could use when having to consider peer or peer?**
The Partnership will be liaising with education regarding guidance however if you need advice about a specific case you can contact Be Safe.

The Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership is looking forward to working with Be Safe to develop practice guidance and protocols both for education and placements for Bristol children.

Fiona Birch & Olivia Henry – National Probation Service

- **When an individual is viewing/obtaining CSEM, at what point is a child within the family home deemed to be at risk?**
We would suggest this would always be on a case by case basis, but hope that you found today's discussions useful in exploring the factors you might consider.
- **Is there a different risk assessment and process between children who have accessed CSEM and adults who have?**
Short answer - there is. Children viewing CSEM would be assessed via the Harmful Sexual Behaviour protocol involving Be Safe and Youth Offending as appropriate to the level of concern.

- **For sexual offences, is it absolutely a given that offenders serve half their sentence? Does severity of offence not factor in? Is prison behaviour not looked at?**
Yes. Although they can be recalled back into custody if the breach their licence conditions and then they will serve to the end. Licence is useful, for getting an accurate picture of the risks they pose in the community if they come no licence there are no external controls.
- **Are interventions for CSEM offenders all aimed at male offenders?**
We only do group work with males as the numbers of females convicted are too low - however we can do 1 to 1 work with females. Lucy Faithfull also have additional resources for working with women.
- **Will probation liaise with other agencies where offenders may present (eg hosp for elective surgery) so that risk to others (spec. children) can be managed?**
Absolutely - if we are aware of offenders in hospital we would ensure that appropriate disclosure is made and risk is managed as best as possible - same with GP surgery but it is on a minimal required to manage risk
- **Are there any effective packages that can be implemented within schools/workplaces which mean that we can see what children/adults are accessing online?**
There are a number of packages that can offer this, however we cannot recommend specific software as they are commercial companies and each setting would need to undertake their own assessment of product suitability. If settings want to find out about the range of packages available then a google search for "internet monitoring software safeguarding uk" will provide some options. To understand what your settings needs might be there is a useful article here: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/guide-monitoring>
- **Is there any research that supports or a role for these risk tools to be adapted into general employment screening for those working with children?**
Safer Recruitment and Value Based Interviews are both practical approaches to recruitment that incorporate research in relation to models of offending for those in positions of trust. Anyone on the police register or Probation will have employment monitored and disclosures made - but they not would work with children.
- Comments that the "Child Pornography" assessment model needs to be renamed due to the language being not appropriate – this was noted by conference organisers and has been passed to the relevant organisation who owns the model.

There are other questions that have been sent to Fiona and Oliva to request a response – their answers will be published here in due course

Liz Hall – Independent Consultant

- **Is child house coming to Bristol or just somewhere safe to give court evidence for section 28? (S28 refers to video interview of children for cross examination, which can mean that a child does not need to attend court at all)**
It would be great to have a child house in Bristol – today's presentation is about beginning the process necessary to secure one in the future.
- **Child House London: How many CYP would use a Bristol House? Would we need a cross Local Authority commissioned service to be viable? Geography is against us?**
The number of children accessing a service such as Child House would depend very much on the size of the location/staffing etc. You have made some very good points, and whilst there will be challenges, opportunities for cross LA commissioning might also help to achieve the funding necessary. We will be taking these comments forward in future discussions.
- **Would the London one have happened without MS funding?**
It is not really possible to say – the desire to develop this as a concept was certainly present – but finding appropriate funding for any pilot is always a challenge.
- **Are there any plans for social work ABE training in this local authority?**
There are certainly discussions about improving the multi-agency training offer for our child protection specialists in all organisations, and this would include the possibility of ABE training for Social Workers – this has been offered in the past. The suggestion has been passed onto the individuals who are able to consider this and progress it.
- **Why does lighthouse only focus on vas? CAC focus on all types of abuse and trauma?**
The current child house is a pilot and as part of the criteria it is only being measured against VAS - good point and we will be sure to pass it on as part of the discussion about local provision.

Professor Kieran McCartan – University of the West of England

- **For non-offending adults with sexual compulsions and thoughts re CYP, is there an appropriate pathway for them to seek help and would it flag them up to police?**
Take a look at the information from the Lucy Faithfull Foundation - their Stop it now! Helpline and resources are available for both those seeking help, and family/partners.
- **I would like answers to the questions you're asking us... how do we work with an adult who admits they're at risk of offending or viewing materials?**
The Lucy Faithfull Foundation has lots of information and resources for working with people who do come forward, and Circles can also offer useful help and support.

A number of other questions have been submitted to Professor McCartan and his response will be published on our website in due course.

Nicola Shannon & Dr Michelle Cutland – The Bridge, Bristol Sexual Assault Referral Centre

- **Where might a now-adult, but historic alleged child victim of sexual abuse approach seek support for potential reporting process and support?**

There are a number of organisations that can help with this – some of them were in our marketplace today, including SARSAS, The Green House and Trauma Recovery Centre. The Southmead Project, Womenkind and Kinergy are other local resources that offer support to adults who experienced childhood sexual abuse. If an adult wants to report historic sexual abuse they can contact the police and will be offered an appropriate service, including referrals to victim support if desired. This is not an exhaustive list of organisations offering adults support, there will be others that have not been included here.

- **How can school based staff access effective supervision?**

There is no official route for Bristol schools – some use their employee assistance programme, others arrange to use Educational Psychologists, or other independent education consultants or therapy services. Some Occupational Health organisations also offer this service.

There was also a request for more information about changes to the safeguarding partnership arrangements in Bristol – information about this will be formally released at the end of June 2019 and will be published on our website: